

What is claimed is:

1. A protecting apparatus for use with a support member maintaining a work
element on a first end thereof, said support member being connectable to the side of
5 a vehicle, comprising:

a support member having first and second end portions, first and second ends, a
middle portion, and being telescopically or slidably moveable between an extended
and a retracted position;

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first and second spaced apart holding members each having first and second end
portions, each first end portion being connectable to the side of a vehicle with each
second end portion being extendable about a respective middle portion of the support
member;

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a guiding rail connectable to the side of the vehicle in linear alignment with the
support member with said support member positioned within the first and second
holding members; and

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a guide collar connected to and moveable with the second end portion of the
support member, said guide collar having a slot on a preselected side thereof, said
slot being mateable with the guide rail for orienting the support member and work
element during movement toward the retracted position of the supporting member.

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2. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, including a rest bracket having first and second end portions, said first end portion being connectable to said vehicle with the second end portion in linear alignment and adjacent the second end portion of support member .

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3. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the second end portion of the rest bracket is of concave configuration and is of a size sufficient for receiving a portion of the second end portion of the support member in the retracted position of said support member.

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4. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the guiding rail is of general "U" configuration.

5. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the guiding rail is of a length in the range of about six to about 18 inches.

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6. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 4, including first and second mounting plates each connected to respective leg of the "U" configured guiding rail.

7. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, including an electric light connected to the first end of the support member.

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8. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, including a camera connected to the first end of the supporting member.

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9. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the telescoping support member is formed of first and second elements, said first element being shorter than and is surrounding said second element, and being connected to said first and second spaced apart holding members, said second element being telescopically moveable through said first member between an extended and retracted position relative to the side of said vehicle.

10. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, including a holding means for releaseably maintaining the second element of the support member at preselected positions relative to said vehicle.

11. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 10, wherein said holding means is a friction type holding means connected to said first support element.

12. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the work element mounted on the first end of the support member has flexible protecting bumpers adjacent the vehicle to which connected.

13. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the bumpers are formed of rubber or organic plastic.

14. A protecting apparatus, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the thickness of the bumpers is substantially the dimension of the distance between the work element and the vehicle in the retracted position of the work element.